

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Advisory Action of May 30, 2006, Applicant encloses a Request for Continuing Examination together with the prescribed fee. The supporting submissions are set out below.

Applicant submits that the enclosed RCE fully complies with 37 CFR 1.114 and therefore asks that the finality of the last report be withdrawn.

Amendments

Independent claims 1 and 5 have been amended to further characterize the complementary formations on the two portions of the dispenser housing. In particular, the formations are defined as mating together until they disengage in response to the application of a threshold level of force.

These features are discussed in detail on page 23 and shown in Figures 35 to 42. Accordingly, the amendments do not add any new matter.

Submissions

35 USC §103

Previously presented claims 1 to 5 stand rejected as obvious in light of the disclosures of US 6,120,138 to Xiao et al, in view of US application no. 2004/0055661 to Yuen.

Newly presented claims 1 and 5 clarify that the two portions of the refill housing are prevented from being moved relative to each other, and therefore guard against any inadvertent dispensing of ink. Upon the application of a predetermined threshold force, the complementary features disengage so that the two portions of the housing can be moved relative to each other with ease.

The prior art fails to disclose the specific combination of elements defined in claim 1 or claim 5. Furthermore, the citations do not provide the skilled worker to provide a refill dispenser that safeguards against inadvertent dispensing of ink with complementary formations that will only permit ink dispensing with the deliberate application of a high threshold force. Accordingly, Xiao and Yuen do not support a §103 rejection of amended claims 1 and 5.

Conclusion

In light of the above, the Applicant submits that the rejection has been successfully traversed. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the present application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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